also includes wife Mrs Furuoka + mrs ouye, (her mother)

NISEI

Project I.D. No. 182

古岡
NAME: Furuoka Bill DATE OF BIRTH: 1915 PLACE OF BIRTH: Stockton
Age: 62 Sex: M Marital Status: M Education: Grammar school

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: _____ Age: ___ M.S. ____ Port of entry: _____
Occupation/s: 1. Farm laborer 2. Farmer 3. Rancher
Place of residence: 1. Stockton 2. Lodi 3. _____
Religious affiliation: Buddhist church
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: Stockton
Name of relocation center: Rohwer, Arkansas
Dispensation of property: Left with an American. Names of bank/s: _____
Jobs held in camp: 1. _____ 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: Land clearing team
Left camp to go to: Chicago

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: 1945 (Farming)
Address/es: 1. Lodi 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: Buddhist church
Activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: _____

Name of interviewer: Takarabe Date: 10/24/77 Place: Lodi
Translator M. TAKARABE

NAME: Furuoka, Bill (and Mrs. Furuoka and Mrs. Ouye Mrs. Furuoka's mother)

AGE: 62 years old

BIRTH DATE: 1915

PLACE OF BIRTH: Woodword Island (Stockton Area)

MAJOR OCCUPATION: Farmer

RELOCATION CENTER: Rowher, Arkansas

INTERVIEW DATE: Oct. 24, 1977

INTERVIEW PLACE: His Home in Lodi

INTERVIEWER: Heihachiro Takarabe

TRANSLATOR: Heihachiro Takarabe

Q: Where were you born?

A: Stockton. It's still there, Woodword Island in the delta.

Q: How many brothers and sisters?

A: Two brothers one is Japan and one in this country and two sisters.

Q: What was your father doing?

A: He was a farmer, but passed away in 1932, long time ago. He was farming in the Island. That's why I was born there. I was 16 years old then. I was 3 years old when my parents went back to Japan and left me there. I stayed in Japan for 8 years. I came back here when I was 8 years old. Then I went a grammar school.

Meanwhile, my father died when I was just about graduating from Jr. high. So I couldn't go to high school. I was the oldest one in the family. I had 2 brothers and 2 sisters, so I had to work. So I have been working ever since then I was 16 years old. Then, in 1940 we got married, right before the war.

Q: Do you remember the Depression?

A: Oh, yeah. You see, right in the Depression time my father died, in 1932. So you see, like me, I never worked

full time before for my father, even though I worked after school. But when I worked for Hakujin (white man), well, I worked very hard. Besides, even if I was 16 years old, Japanese 16 years old was not that tall. I was around 5 ft 3 and 110 lb. So I had to work 10 hours to get 8 hours pay.

Hakujins were very smart, too, you know. The reason was that I was young and it was the time of depression and everything was very bad.

One good thing was that they knew Japanese were good workers. That's why Japanese had more jobs. Other nationalities had tough time getting jobs. So that's why I had a job, even thought it was 15¢ an hour. It went up to 20¢ an hour later on. It was very cheep but what are you going to do. We had work, so we did well.

Q: What kind of work did you do?

A: I worked at farm, vineyard. In winter time we pruned and in spring we did howing and cultivating, and summer time, irrigating. All those jobs. Big ranches used to keep workers all the time. So as far as eating is concerned, we weren't that bad off.

Q: How many brothers and sister did you have?

A: I have 2 brothers and one sister. However, I have one brother and one sister in Japan also. We had to support them, too, not all the time but frequently. We had to send money to them.

Q: People were very poor then.

A: Yes, of course. Everybody was poor at that time. Only people who did well, were those big land owners. Rest of us were very poor. First, before 1932 they elected Roosevelt as the President. They opened up places where people lined up in long lines. Well, about that time Vineyard began to do well. Till then lots of grapes were left on the vine.

It's no good for vine, you know, so we had to knock them off to the ground. When Roosevelt came into his office grapes turned into money, at least a few dollars. In 1936, we began to do well, fairly well. At that time things began to get better gradually. He created WPA and others.

Q: Do you know any one who had hard time eating everyday?

A: You mean Japanese? Yeah. Reason was that some people had little kids and no help from them. In amny cases

husbands were very old and wives were very young. So things were really tough for them.

Q: How did they survive?

A: Well, you know for lots of people, like one of our own family members, they couldn't buy bread for lunch. So they took nigiri (rice balls) to school. This family had lots of girls and no boys. You know girls needed dresses, but no dress for them. They didn't have shues sometimes. It was the same way with hakujins, too

There were those who came from Dakota. Rich people here were okay, but poor one came over here to California and tried to make a go of it. Those people were new at job. Farming is a lot different there. But orientals knew how to do things. The only thing those hakujin had was pull, their relatives. Some had it okay, but many had hard time.

Q: Was there any Oklahoma and Arkansus people?

A: Yes, they start coming after 1932. They first came to Bakersfield and Fresno area. Then they start coming North to here. You heard about movie, "Grapes of Rath"? story of Oklahomans? It was just like that. Today, may be a few years ago, it would be Mexicans.

They used to pile up in one car-- they were dirty because they couldn't take bath for so many days. They lived in shacks. Well, you know Japanese lived like that before 1930 who lived in hakujin farmers' bunk house chich had no sealing.

In those days the health Dep. had nothing to do with you, you know. It had no floor, it was a dirt floor. Hakujin didn't want to spend too much money, they had to take care of their own house.

Japanese, too, they didn't want to invest in houses, because as soon as they made money they were going back to Japan. That's where they made mistake, I think.

Let me see, my parents were going to go back, so they educated me in Japan. But you know you didn't need Japanese language, here. But education for me was best. It is better to know Japanese in Japanese community. However, even if one was able to go to college, there was no jobs at hakujin's place except places like Sumitomo B ank.

Q: Did you say you lived in Japan for 10 years?

A: No, I lived there for 8 years. My father made a huge money at one time with poteto. He went back to Japan. He was

going to stay there, but farming there was not like the farming here. Meanwhile my uncle and aunt said, "Go back to America. We'll take care of your kids, so send us money."

So my father's folks decided me to stay there, and my other brother with my aunt's side. We were separated. Meanwhile immigration to America was getting tougher and tougher to go back. So they said, "You better call back your sons." I was 12 years old when my mother came back to get us.

When I came back, I had a sister and a brother. My sister said, "Are you going back to Japan again?" My mother said, "No, no. He is the one came back with us."

Our brothers and sister are all separated. It's a heck of a deal. But before you see my folks wanted to go back to Japan and have some kind of house and some kind of thing.

Right after the war (1922) things were good. It was at the peak in the United States. After that it was down hill, till it was 1929 to 1932. It was a real depression time. He did well, in 1922, but after that he lost everything and couldn't farm anymore.

So he worked for somebody. He was a good driver of a team of horses. In those days ranches and orchards around here were still using horses for cultivation, no truckters. So that's why he was hired for driving horses. He stayed here and couldn't go back to the Island. That's how he lost everything.

After I came back, I had no choice. I had to work, just work and work. I was around 19 or 20 years old when a whiteman asked, "You boys are good workers. How about renting a vineyard instead of working for somebody?" That man started me.

However, at that time I had no money to rent. So this man's company financed it for me. This company paid money for me to get going. It wasn't sharecropping. It was a cash crop. The company wanted grapes. That was the only reason, see.

This company wanted grapes to see all over the country. That's why they gave me money to grow crops. Lots of people did that. But also lots of peoole lost money this way, too. But you see, a minute the company lose money, they cut you off.

They cann't risk their money. Evidently I was really

lucky, you know. So then my acrage increased. At that time when the war started, I owned a property in Lodi. I was 23 or 24, but I owned 150 acres and 350 acres rented. I was doing well with my brother.

We bought a property in Acampo. The following year we made money and bought a new car. First time in my life I made that kind of money. So I bought a new car. I took it to Los Angeles. It was just about 10 days to 2 week before Pearl Habor.

I went to Terminal Island, to see a battle ship. They let you go though it. There were lots of people there. They didn't know that there was going to be a war. They were making battle ship there.

In order to go to Terminal Island, you must take a ferry boat. There was no Disney Land or Marine Land you see, but we went through Griffith Park and Hollywood Bowl.

Any way we had a nice sightseeing trip, first time in my life. We came back and following Sunday about 8 o'clock in the morning I heard the news that Japan attacked Pearl Habor. That's it. That was the corse for our downfall. There were something going on and we were

scared heck, because they might attack us, you know. We had only very small amount of people Japanese people here.

In a few days I heard that FBI's picked up so and so. There was an organization called Heimusha Kai Everybody donated to it, even Nisei. I did. They had a record and everything. FBI's wanted to see that. You cann't deny that.

We didn't say we were aiding the Japanese soldiers, but we siad this was the aid to soldgers' families. So that's why the United States Government didn't say anything about it. Japan was fighting in Manchuria at that time.

Anyway, they ahd a record there. Then somebody said that all the Kibei were going to be picked up. It was just a rumor,see. They figured that they were from Japan so they might be disloyal to the United States.

Well, all kinds of rumors started. But they didn't do it. I thought I was going to be picked up on the account of the Heimusha Kai, but they picked up only the top guys.

Q: When were you married?

A: In 1940. It was before we bought a car. When we went to Los Angeles, our first son was born already. That

year (1941) was a good year for farmers. We made money. I bought my car and then the war started right away. I couldn't even sell my car because they froze the sale of cars.

Then I had a tractor which I couldn't sell to anybody. The United States had what they called War Board. As soon as the war started, the local War Board controled all the tractors and who needed them, you see. So I couldn't see it to anybody. Besides, they put freez on price, too. They were not making them anymore.

I bought it for $2,500. The government gave me exactly what I paid for. I used it for 6 months, that tractor. They froze the price. My car, well, I had to sell it. But I could sell it to people with priority, farmers who need a car. It just so happened that my old boss had an old car and he needed a new one. So he applied for it and he got it. But I couldn't see it to John or Dick or anybody else. I got a good price for it, though.

I kept everything at a white man's basement. He kept it for me. I got everything back. When I came back from the camp, I got everything back.

Q: How did you come to know each other?

A: Well, we were family friends. We were from Hiroshima

Ken and we associated with them. So, that's why we knew each other.

Q: Did you date with her?

A: Before we got married? Oh, yeah, we got to get to know you know.

Q: By the time you dated her, you knew you would be married to her.

A: Oh, yeah. That's why we went out. In those days you don't go out with anybody. (Mrs.) Yes, but we did go out together before we wer engaged. (Mr.) Yes, but in group, though, with two or three boys with two or three girls. We went to show or something. But not just two of us together.

Q: Who did make the dicision that you should be married?

A: My family. I had my mother and a brother. Three of us talked over and decided on it. In those days you almost had to marry people from the same Ken. It was really hard to get marry in those days. Both had to be sort of the same kind of family, also. Our families came from the same are, so they can check each other's family background, if they wanted to. It's very interesting though in those days. In any case war got started.

Q: Before you go to another area, I would like you to tell me about sumo wrestling.

A: You mean when I was young? It happend around 1934, may be it was 1926. I was around 20 years old. In those days we had sumo team in all the areas, Lodi, Stockton, Sacramento, Vacaville, Islton and others. They were sponsored by Seinen Kai.

Sumo was pretty popular in those days. So every 4th of July Sacramento sponsored a tornament. Lodi sponsored it around vegitable time, because we had money during that time. Vacaville sponsored it during fruit time, because they ahd money during that time.

Then you must go. If you don't send your team, they they wouldn't come to ours. So we belonged to a league and got a trophie. In those days Issei sure liked sumo. Honest!. It was really popular. Parents were really crazy about it. That's the truth. That's why everything went good. Everybody joined in adn helped. It was true with baseball also. The baseball in Lodi is shut today. No one is interested in it.

You can see major league on TV, so they aren't interested in our own. Before we didn't have TV, local teams were very popular. We used to go to Vacaville, Islton on

Sundays. So we used to have big games.

Sumo was the same way. We also had an annual tornament in San Francisco at Kin Mon Gakuen. We used to send 5 regulars from each district to this big event. Before they came up to this big event, each local district had their own tornament to select local representatives.

They also gave ranks. If you kocked off 5 or 6 others, then you would become a blackbelt. When you kocked off 4 or 5 blackbelt, then you would become 2 dan. You could advance only at those big events.

So they had this annual tournament. It was pretty popular. It lasted from early in the morning to late in the afternoon, till about 9:00pm.

People from Terminal Island spoke only Japanese. I don't know their background, but they hardly spoke in English. Those guys challenged everybody. They got so much money and they don't know what to do with it.

They wre so good at it that we were no match. But they still wanted to challenge us. There was an A class sumo wrestler in Northern California. They were the tops. Then there were BB's. People in BB's were also invited.

They would give you a dinner. We could go to any restaurant and get free meal.

In the evening they were gathered at a large place for banquet and they were given trophies. One time there was a boy by the name of Matsumoto in Lodi. He was a real strong wrestler and judoist. He won over 7 guys, so he was given 9 sacks of 100lb rice. We didn't know how to bring them back.

I took my car, but sumotori (sumo wrestlers) were big, so I didn't know how to bring rice back home. So we had to hire Shima Transort Co. to bring them back. In addition, we won 3 or 4 barrels of shoyu. It was really a huge prizes. This tournament provided tremendous amount of prises. It was a real event. They didn't do that every year, though. If you wanted to stay there over night, they gave you $ 5 for the night. It's around $24 a day now. But at that time we could sleep any hotel we wanted with it. So if you wanted to come home, you could save that $ 5.

Q: Were you a sumo wrestler?

A: Yes, I did. But I was at the bottom. It so happened that Lodi didn't have too many guys. So I was chosen. On top of that, I could take my car, so I had to go. But

I wasn't too much of contest to many of them.

We had Ishida, Yamate and Matsumoto. These gys were huge and strong. Lodi did pretty good at that time. Matsumoto was really something. Everybody knew him. He did judo, too. He was really good.

Q: You said that Terminal Island people controled fishing in the West Coast.

A: Yes. They controled it till Monterey. You know funny thing happened. fishing and flower industry was controlled by Japanese, you know. If Japanese could stay on during the war, then they could have done real big. But the war came up and Italians and others were smart, you know. They really wanted to knock us off. Everybody knew that. Los Angeles flower market was controled by Japanese completely. So when they kicked Japanese into the camps, boy... When they came back from the war, Japanese couldn't even go to the flower market. They even couldn't sell their own flowers at the market.

Italians were smart, you see. So they restricted Japanese from coming into the market. So Japanese people had to ask whites to sell it for them. It was that bad. But now they are starting to get back again.

Fishing business is dead now, because there are no fish near the coast. But fishing business was really something in those days. If you had been there you would see that Cannary workers were all Japanese, tuna canning, all of them were Japanese women.

They just couldn't beat Japanese because they were just better fishermen. Italians were the only ones who tried to compete with Japanese, but they couldn't compete. I don't know why, but when boats came in to a cannary, Japanese fishing boats were full of tuna, but Italian boats were not even full.

You could tell that right away. That's the reason why Japanese were evacuated. They couldn't compete with Japanese economically. So they evacuated Japanese. The war was just agood excuse. The General DeWitt fell for it. All alone the coast Italians fished, even though they were not citizens. But you know, they were not put away like Japanese were. Italians and Germans were in war agaisnt America, you know.

The other thing, the other day Jan Ken Po Gakko went to Angel Island. At that time a guide, a Chinese man, told us that the place was used to detain prisoners of war.

Every Sunday Italians had a pass to go to San Francisco. How would you like that. They were prisoners! Italian soldgers who were married to Italian Americans could stay here as free men. How would you like that. I didn't know that till he told us.

There were quite few whites there, too. They got weekend pass, prisoners, to go to San Francisco. Well, Italian society helped them so that they could pick up Italian girls, amrry them and stay in the United States. Most of them got married like that and stayed in America. It is a real dirty deal. This is a economic struggle.

The same thing happened to the flower market, or vegitable market. Japanese controled those markets. Italians felt that now was the chance to take advantage of, so they put lot of fire on Duet. Dewitt They told him to do this and that. All those things are riged from the beginning.

In a way, they were more dangerous than we were. Because we y can be distinguished right away. But you cannot tell Italians right away from hakujin. There are red headed Italians, too.

When we went to Angel.l Island this Chinese man told us

lots of things we didn't know. He came right out to tell us. Poor Chinese got real bad treatment, too, because of no good government. At least Japan had a good government.

(Mrs.) Mr. Nagata, who is a Kibei, came to this country, Nihonjin Kai (Japanse society) had ice water, milk and everything for him, but Chinese had nothing. It was just before the war.

(Mr.) He had no father. His father died in Japan, though Mr. Nagat was born here. He came to his brother. When he came, the government had to make sure that he was not a fake Nagata, you know. So they kept him at Angel Island for a couple of days.

Meanwhile... That's why he knows. He said, "Chinese were treated real dirty." This other man who was educated at the University of California, so he could speak English very well. He said the same thing about the treatment of Chinese at Angel Island. He said, "In our country Chinese were treated real bad. Our country pushes them, pushes them. So long as they got money, it's okay. They would let them go through."

Q: Then the war came and you put all your belongings in a

hakujin's basement. You sold your car to him, too. Then what happen.

A: I wanted to tell you another thing. When the war broke out, we tried to evacuate bolunterily. I did that. Those guys in Lodi, Sakoda, Ouye and Shimada and myself got on my car, my car was new see, and went to Nevada. The reason why we went to Nevada was that a banker in Stockton, the president by the name of Mr. Olowhite, said, "We have 2,000 acres in Nevada. You can go over there and buy that real cheep."

Because west side of High way 99 was A Zone. The other side was B Zone. East of Sierra was called BB Zone where we didn't have to evacuate. We didn't have to go to camp if we moved there. That's what they said first, any way. So we, 4 of us, about the same age, went to Reno to see the property.

It was located about 45 miles east of Reno. I forgot the name of place. Any way he had 2,000 acres there. We went there to see the property and took soil samples, put them in my trunk. It was about 1:30pm in the afternoon and we were very hungry.

So one the way home, I forgot the name of the road, but we stopped at a humburger stand. Two old ladies were there.

He said, "How many humburgers do you want?" I said, "Five." Everybody was so hungry that we wanted to eat real fast. Then she said, "I want to know whether you boys are loyal to the United States of America or not. So solute to the United States Flag."

She had a flag right there on top of the window. In those days I didn't go to school and forgot a part of it. So this lady said, "You all say it at once." Good thing, Paul Shimada was a Boy Scout master. So he said, "You fellow me." Then he started to say, "I pledge my alligiance to..."

When we had done it, we didn't feel like eating anymore. "What a hell are we any way, ha." We payed through. Then Paul siad, "Wait a minute. Those people don't know anything." So Paul said to those ladies, "I have a brother in the Army. What's wrong with us. I'm A-1 now and I'm ready to go to the Army anytime they call me."

The lady said, "I had 2 sons. One of them in San Diego and the other in some other place." "That's the same things with my brother being in the Army. It's the samething. What's the matter with you," said Paul. So she kind of felt b ad about it.

But the other lady sneaked out and call police. She took the license number of my car. They sent it to Reno and said that they have Japanese spys. This is the true story. We were so mad. Sakata said, "Son of a bitch." We paid for the food, but didn't feel like eating.

Well, there was no Japanese in Reno, so... So, we went out and wanted to stay over night. We went to a big hotel and steped out of the car. Then the FBI came and parked the car side by side.

He showed his badge and said, "Follow me." We said, "Where?" He siad, "City Hall." There was a big room there. It was around 3 or 4 in the afternoon. It was a winter time. They asked us many questions. So we said, "We were going to buy a ranch. If you don't believe us, you could call Mr. Wolowhite in Stockton who is the president of a bank."

He could also call the chief Jackson in Lodi. He could tell them what kind of persons we were. They didn't do that. They said, "Never mind." They just wanted to know what we were doing out there. They opened my car trunk, suitcase and everything. When they saw the soil aamples, they didn't like it at all. But for farmer,

soil sample is the most important thing. We were to send it to the University of California. They used to make soil analysis and tell us about organic substance, kind of fertilizers needed and so forth.

They were real mad about it. Finally it was getting dark. They said we had to go home. Well, we said, "What can we do now. It's dark we have to sleep here somewhere."

He said, "Besure to leave here before 8:00am." Paul Shimada was a very sharp man. He said, "How about getting us a room to stay. You get us rooms for us." So one of them got on a phone and called for room reservation. They got 4 rooms for us. You know what FBI's told us? He siad, "Stay in your room. Don't you ever come out. If anything happen to you, you gonna be really sad."

That's what he said. It was really strict, you know what I mean. So we didn't want to go out to no place. Meantime everybody is sour like hell. What we are going to do now. We couldn't do nothing. We talked in a room and we left early next morning.

Oh, they questioned us everything. I sat on this corner, one sat in that corner and the other at the opposit corner.

You know all the FBI's were young ones, three on each of us. They were practicing on us, I think. They knew who we were. Soon they were repeating the same questions.

...This war board in Lodi, Mr. Erick, who was a good friend of our friend. He said, "You cann't help about this war, but you can do something to help." So we helped them by assisting arrangement of tructors and so on. This man died the other day, but he was the head of the War Board in San Joquin County..

He was a good frind of Sakauras. When they were kids, they just about lived together. So Mr. Erick trusted him and said, "Well, can't be helped now." But the only thing was that I had 4 to 5 ranches to go around but we couldn't go farther than so many miles. I had to get a pass. So I talked to Mr. Erick about it and he wrote me a pass. You could show it to anybody like policemen when I was going around. He helped me quite a bit on this.

But, I tell you, I never expected to be treated rough like that, especially in Nevada. You know what happen after that? That ranch in Nevada? This 2,000 acres was bought by [illegible] Japanese. A group of families from Manzanar was farming there. When Misora Hibari came to Sacramento

they came in a chartered bus.

This farm, you see, the only thing is that it gets real cold in winter time, because it is in Nevada. But the ground is real good, and everything grows there. They used to grow lots of potetos.

They made an underground storeage place and they put all those potetos in the underground. During the winter time they would separate good and the bad and send them to Los Angeles. But in those days, transportation wasn't too hot. So they went bancropt. This land is now owned by a rich person in Stockton.

(Mrs) After the war started, I was more afraid of Filipinos because they used to treat us like criminals. I guess they were taken advantage of or something before.

Q: Is that Paul Shimada of Sacramento?

A: Yes, that's right. he still works with Boyscouts. He is a district council member or something. He is originally from Lodi. He is a dark looking guy. He's got a brain, though. He is very sharp. He doesn't have children, though. Yes, that's the one.

Q: Then where did you go?

A: Stockton.

Q: When Pearl Har bor was attacked, how did you feel?

A: I was scared that hakujin (white man) might attack us. I'll tell you why. If you lived around here yourself with hakujin you know that they have shotguns. I felt that they might come after us in the evening. I know hakujin are more wild than Japanese.

Before the war, I went to haircut, when I was a kid. But they didn't want to cut my hair. So when we were young kinds and old barbar would tell us, "Today is closed, closed. No open." They used to have a kitchen in the back and people were waiting there. So we used to say, "I know you. You don't want to cut our hair, ha. You are chicken."

We were looking for trouble. It was like that around here, even around Fairfield. They have restaurants there and lots of war brides. Lots of changes took place in that area. There were many farmers (Japanese) out there.

They didn't want to cut hair for Japanese in the town, because other hakujin wouldn't come if they did. When we went there for the first time in Susun and Fairfield

areas, for packing pairs, there were lots of Japanese workers there. Many of them were from Kishu. Mr. Nakamura of Lodi, who was the labor boss, would take many young people there. So there were many young people who made boxes and nailed covers. Ther were lots of things to do.

At night we got real hungry and couldn't go to sleep. But those son-of-gun didn't feed us. They were charging like heck because it was in season. But around 12 midnight we got real hungry and couldn't go to sleep. So 4 of us, young men, took a car and went to Fairfield. They didn't even serve food for us.

One day finally we talked this waiter and ordered New York stakes. The biggest ones they had. They didn't know we had money. When they found out about us, boy, they treated us real good. After that whenever we went there, that waiter flew over to us to take orders. He would say, "Hello boys! What do you want?" So we ordered New York Stakes. It was automatic, because we were hungry.

In those days $2.75 was a big money, but we ate two orders. It was a huge stake, too, but we ate them all up. It was around 1938, it was before I was married. That showed them. After that they would come quickly

and take our orders. He didn't know anything about Japanese. He thought we were cheepscates or something. By golly, after that he treated us good. We left a good tip for him, too. Because it would be good next time we go there, see. We uded to make good money, then. It was piece work, so we worked hard, too.

Q: When you went into the Assembly Center, how did you feel?

A: Well, there were lots of boys, so there were some fightings. We had Hawaiian gangs, so one time our local boy got into fight with one of them. It was a real big one. But, the only thing was that Hawaiians were rough and tough, even though they were few in number.

So some of the older Nisei folks went over there and talked to them. He told them that if they would do anything to our boys, we would do something to them, too. After that Hawaiians were quiet as lamb. Those guys, the reason why they were there was because they were thrown out of Oakland. They used to be sailers, merchan marines. But when the war broke out, they couldn't go back to the Island.

In any case, they were rough! When they asked something and our boys didn't say anything they would hit them. That's what they did. But Nisei, those kids were so

nice that they just cried. The older ones got real mad, and said, "Hey, we've got to do something."

The reason I know about them was that my wife had a baby and was in hospital. Those Hawaiians used to come and clean the area. Then they would go into the kitchen and ate whatever they wanted, Jell-O and so on. If they didn't give them to those Hawaiians, they would ht them. So what are you going to do? They ate anything they want tna then we got nothing.

So we had a meeting. We had to put stop to that. So we had a meeting. Those Hawaiians were only 6 or 7 in number. There were another 6 to 7 working at another block. We told these men in the meeting not to be so rought.

Q: Was food okay?

A: Oh, the food at Stockton was terrible. We had nothing but hash. That was what they fed us everyday. They didn't know how to cook for that many people. It was in Army style and they didn't know any other way. It was the first time they had run something like that, you know. The head man was an agricultural man. He had an assistant who came from the department of agriculture in the University of Arkansus. They sure didn't know

how to run the camp too much.

We had our own government, you know. We chose our own council men and managers. Those council man and managers told those administrators what to do a lot of times. Otherwise, they couldn't see head or tail, because it was the first time for these guys.

(Mrs.) Yeah, they had meetings and they would request something, you know. (Mr.) You know in Stockton, we were put in there (Assembly Center) just like animals, so it was not good for anybody.

When we went to Arkansus, it improved slightly, because now we had to make living there for a while. But in Stockton, why, it's like having no doors. Everybody pop in and out of everywhere. So it was rough. But when we were in Arkansus, we Nisei were very young, you know. I was about the oldest Nisei there.

You know people who worked for government stealing things from us. I didn't know about it in Stockton, but in Rowher we caught a lot of them. We requested so much food from the Six Command and they would distribute them in their trucks. I was lucky, so I had to go to the truck to get them. I had to go to Texas from Arkansus to

to get them. It was the first time I got to know about Fort Ord and Dallas.

Right in between these chities there was a race truck, Arlington Down. They kept trucks for 6 command there, miles after miles of them. The trucks we took were the Army trucks. We were the team of 30 men, 15 from us and 15 from Jerome. Each of us drove one truck home. I was chosen for this

I drove home a commender car (?), one of those 4 wheels drive. I stopped at Monroe and bought a whole stuck of banana. So I hang inside of the care where it wouldn't shake. I wanted to take them home and show them to my family. By golly, by the time we reached Arkansus, everybody stuck his head in and ate them up.

Any way, Dallas Texas was a big town. Oh, it was big. So we stayed in a hotel at the Fort Ord. It was a nice hotel. They didn't bother us or anything. It looked like there was no war going on. But minute we started going home, kids by the high way raised their hands. They thought we were in the Army. All the Texan kids did that saying, "Hi! Hi!" We also raised our hands and said, "Hi! Hi!"

One time in Monroe, which was the last stop, you see FBI would go in first and checked the town. He was the guy who decided where to stay. Then another hakujin went over there and arrange hotel for us. Everything was taken care of by the government. So for eating they gave us so much. Well, it was the last night, so we wanted to eat stakes. We divided into groups of 5 people and went into a big restaurant.

They ordered it alright. But I noticed that lots of hakujin were gathering in front of the restaurant. Somebody must have said, "Jap". So FBI man said, "Go ahead. Don't do anything as if you don't notice." So we sat there and eat and talked. Meanwhile he went out and talked to those people. They wouldn't listen to him. Soon police came and said, "Go home! Go home!" Everybody could hear it you know.

Well, we were going to see show after we ate that dinner. But FBI man said, "It's not wise for you to go to show tonight. Don't go to anywhere by-yourself. Go around in groups. Stick together and stay close by." So we had to stay in the lobby. So nothing happen to us. You know mob is the one who will hurt you. They don't know anything. When one guy start saying something, then the rest will follow.

We saw all those people in windows and everywhere solid. Lots of them didn't know Japanese. So they must want to see us. There were some Japanese people lived there though, farming. South was very bad. In the north no one did anything to us. If you went to Chicago, they didn't do anything to you, nothing.

This happend in the Rowher Camp. The Government had surveying project, and had a surveying team. Team members were all college and Junior collece students who were going to go into that line. So hakujin engineer headed the project. In Arkansus there was thausands and thausands of government ground.

They didn't know where it ended. So they went out there and put stakes in. We went out there and clear that areas. This surveying team was way ahead of us. This white man, who was the chief, and I were going through the town called McArthur. It was a small one rail road station town. That's all it had.

Well anyway when a man saw a Japanese, he shot him with a shot gun. He thought this Japanese man was a spy. He was hit in the leg by a buckshot, and was bleeding. So he tied it with a handcachief. That whiteman who shot him made the team march three miles to a highway, and

and then took them to a small sherif's office. He said, "I got a Jap! I got a Jap!"

That night we had a meeting. That day we had no baseball or anything. We had a meeting and went to the director. We demanded that this white man should be arrested otherwise we wouldn't do anything. Well, we were going to stick together. So, finally he contacted the town of McArthur. We didn't think they were going to detain him even overnight. They would just pick him up and let him go. But just the idea of him being picked up.

This Japanese man who was shot, it wasn't too bad, because the whiteman shot him from far away. But it was a buckshot. This white man said that we came up from the Mississippie River. When you think about it, he had a nice idea. It could be possible. But at the same time he was a fool.

The head of the crew, who was an engineer, was there and tryed to talk to him but he wouldn't listen. He was a real quiet person, that engineer. He wouldn't touch those kind of people over there. If they knew something then you could talk to them, but they knew nothing.

Once I went deep inside of a mountain. It was deep

inside of a forest. It was by a river. I wanted to buy a chicken. At first this man was very suspicious of me. But when I bought chicken from him, he was very happy. At first I bought a chicken for 50¢. At that time chicken was sold like hot cakes in the camp. So the price went up to 75¢ and $1.00 and then soon $1.25.

It was a spring chicken, fullgrown and was very big. It was a real nice one. He said to me, "I got 800 chicken. Can you buy them from me?" So I said, "Oh, I might buy them from you." Well, I bought them all, but I didn't buy them all bymyself, though. I bought them for others, too. I couldn't buy all at once, you see. But I bought a dozen at a time, and I cleaned him up. This man made a lot of money.

Their houses were very dirty, though. Those people had lot of chickens. They had cows for milk. They sure make nice butter. It was a delicious butter. Like deer hunting, we have a season here, but they don't have any season. They shoot them when they need them.

Q: Were you able to go out because you were one of the surveying team members?

A: We were in land clearing crews. I just happened to be lucky. I headed that crew. So they gave me a pass,

everymonth they issued a pass for me. So I could go to start working on Monday, I had to go out there and see where about. I had 15 trucks which went out to work. I had crews of about 30 people in each truck. That's a lot of people.

I got one truck for each block. So I had them situated here and there according to a design. You know, within less than 2 years, we cleared over 300 acres. We were knocking trees down and burned the brush. We brought logs home for fules and stumps we just had to leave them there. We couldn't do anything with it.

That wood were all hardwood. You know funny thing, all those trees were straight. Beautiful trees. But they grow wild over there. One year the government said that they had no coal. So everybody went out ther and had to cut trees down for fule. You know, Japanese are funny. They didn't have to do that, but they want to do it. So the volunteers went out there and haul wood, but they don't know how to do it.

This man from Lodi, who jsut happened to be at the wrong place. You know when a tree falls, the top part whips when it hit the ground. That's the one which kills you. Well, when we yelled, "Lumber!" he started to run toward

the way the tree was falling. He was just unlucky.

There were 600 guys out there. Everybody went out there and chew fat and we had good time. We weren't working that hard. You counldn't tell them to work just for $16 a month. This man should have stayed behind. But he felt "kinodoku" to use wood which was chopped down by other people. So he went out there to help out. He died immeadiately. He was hit on the head. He was close to 60 years old then.

In camp, people used to make "doburoku". It was very dengerous. Couple people died from it. You know why, business was so good that they put lie (Lye) in it for fermentation. But lie is poison, you know. So people drunk it and their stomack start to boil. Most of these people were single men. Then wanted to drink so bad, that he would mix rice and koji. But this method took too much time, so he put lie in instead of koji.

This way fermentation took place quicker. He should have left it for a while, but he wanted to drink it so bad, that he drunk it too soon. The man who made the sake was cought.

In the camp these things went on a lot. (Mrs.) When we

went in the poach (of the barrack) I discovered that it wasn't ready. We had a baby, dady and I, brother-in-law, mother-in-law and sister-in-law, 7 of us got in one room and one other small room. That's all we had. So we had to make sections inside of the room.

(Mr.) Something happened to me. We had no table and no chair. The only thing we had was beds, well, cots. We were really discusted. So I wanted to get lumber to make a couch. Sakoda and I used to go around together, so we went to ge lumbers. We went there and got real good lumbers. Well, he was 24 and I was 24, too. We were carrying as much lumber as we could.

We walked one block or more, well we lived way from there. Well, we got cought by one hakujin. He had a plain cloths on and a jacket. He said, "Where are you boys going?" I said, "Shut up!? We were talking big, you see. If anybody complained, we were going to blast them. That's the way we felt.

He said, "Where are you going?" I said, "Shut up! Never mind." He said, "Hey, boys, I wanna talk to you. You just give me time." We said, "Okay, talk." We were carrying lumbers on our shoulder. It was really heavy. So we put them on the ground and sat down.

He said, "You know we have lots of people start to come in here. If everybody take lumbers, we cann't build houses for them." Well, we didn't give a dam. We thought he was one of the watchmen.

We said, "If you try to take it away from us, you gonna be in trouble." He said, "Well, I tell you, I'll accomodate half way. I'll give you a half and I'll take away a half." We said, "No,no! No way!" He said, "Don't say that boys. We must build houses. Children and everybody are coming in and we need houses for them. Listen to me."

Well, we dicided to return half. So we left a half of it them. He said, "Would you please take them back?" I said, "What are you talking about." By the time we come back the other half will be gone!" He said, "No, no. I'm gonna watch it for you. You come back. Would you do that for me? I'm not able to do that myself."

Well, we took them back and threw them back into the pile and came back. This oldman was sitting on the lumber and watching it for us. At the very last he said, "You don't know me, but I am the director." He was the most understanding guy there, I think. You know we weren't going to give in. But he met us half way. This old man

had a hat on. He was a good man.

Two week later the office called us to come in for a job. So we went in there. Well, he was there, too. He said, "Oh, boys, you don't want steal my lumbers?" Well, I felt very cheep. All the girls, secretaries were looking at me. He remembered me.

There were 10 unites of houses for caucasions. They all lived in nice houses. They had builtin stove and all that. But you know those families couldn't come in. When the appliances were ordered, someone was stealing them befroe they arrived. Somebody was stealing them and selling them outside. So the people waiting, counldn't come in because they had wife and children with them. They were selling them in Magee or Fiveduff (?), nearby town. We caught them finally, but this man made a lot of money. Ice boxes and all brand new ones.

One time I was working with what they called "Fule and food committee". In the begining the government gave us 22¢ a head for a meal. But we were fed with 17¢ per meal, so somebody was stealing meet somewhere. So we had investigation. When the train came in, meets came in by car loads. That night we didn't know how many car loads came in. There was no way to check.

So some hakujins would drop them somewhere and sold them in the black market. One day this Japanese truck driver came in late at night. He found that somebody was in a warehouse. So he came in and told us that somebody was in a warehouse. The warehouse was closed by that time till 5 o'clock in the morning.

Well, when we got there, this white man hired 5 to 6 guys and stealing all the meat. He didn't take any meat. He was stealing all the good round stakes. In that way they could pile them up better. So they cought him and he was fired from the government. He was stealing all along. That's why we didn't have enough meet for a quite while.

The other thing was that we had 40 trucks for maintenance and everything. These trucks had gone down to 10. That was all. The rest wouldn't move any more. Just small things were wrong, that's why they weren't moving. The main office said that they ordered the parts, so they would arrive any day. But they never came.

Well, the head of transportation division used to go after the parts. He was selling those parts in nearby town on the way home. Finally everything got smoothed out, so it was okay. But in the begining we didn't know

what was going on. In the begining we didn't know who had the power and who was supposed to do what. So there was no way to check them. However, we caught up with them. They were stealing left and right.

The director of the relocation center investigated the situation. The head of the division got a big fine, because he was making money off the camp. He was put in jail, too. All these departments were big departments. But the chief and the assistant chiefs were hakujins.

But they knew nothing. They were worse than stray cats. Japanese are quiet, hah, they had Japanese assistants, too. So they are the ones who did actual work. Those hakujins didn't do anything. They didn't care either.

We had a police force, too. They were watching fights. There were lots of them. There weren't much stealing among Japanese people, though. We didn't lock our house or anything. We didn't have anything to be stolen. So I would say they were trying to prevent people from fighting.

They were also rough charactors, too, you know. Many of them were anti-American, and many of them were also anti-Japanese. They ahd bothsides of those extreams. Both

sides were trying to beat the others. Our place, Rohwer, was very quiet, though. Those tough ones were sent to Tule Lake.

(Mrs.) About two years after or so people began to go outside, Chicago and Michigan and all other places to work. Main thing was to earn money. In camp we were earning only $16 a month.

Q: How long did you stay in camp?

A: Oh, about 3 years. No, I went out. The Army drafted me. But at that time, I didn't know that I was on a black list. So I didn't have to go. I just thought that everybody would be going automatically. When the Army start drafting, I start to worry. It came from the questionairs.

They asked me all kinds of questions including loyalty to America. I answered "Yes" but I said, "But don't fense me in." At that time anyone who put any words in there were put on a black list automatically. You had to say, "Yes" or "No". I said, "Yes" and the "But don't fense me in inside of barbed wires." Then I was put on the list automatically.

They wanted me to send me to Tule Lake, but my wife,

daughter, sister and everybody else were to stay there. They were all cleared. So I got really upset. I said, "What a hell going on here!" I went down to my block manager, Frank Mirikitani. He said, "Hey, Bill, you are a bad case, ha." I said, "What do you men? What's wrong?" He said, "You are on a black list."

Many guys are wanting to go to Tule Lake. They are gong. You may be sent to Tule Lake, too." So I went to the main office. It was a good thing that I worked for them through the main office. I went up to Mr. Johnson and said, "Mr. Johnson, I wona talk to you."

He said, "Come in." So I went in there and said, "I am on a black list." He said, "What?" He sais, I will call Washington D.C. and clear it up for you. Before you get cleared, you will get a hearing. You want to do that?" I said, "Sure. I cann't go there without my kids and wife. What am I going to do there?"

Three days passed. Finally a notice came to me from the office. So I went in there. There weren't too much. They said, "Why did you write that?" So I said, "Well, they didn't say I was supporsed to say just yes or no." There was a secretary who was taking notes by short hand.

This man said, "Will you bomb the Emperor's place?" I said, "Wait a minute, I don't have a plain or wings to do that. How can I go over there? The examinor who was a Major said, "Oh, yeah you are right." The other question was that if I would kill Emperor Hirohito if I had a chance. If I say no, then they wouldn't clear me, naturaly. I had to say "Yes."

Another thing, "Suppose you go to the Army. Your uncle or your brother was on the other side. What are you going to do? Are you going tosave him?" I said, "At the front line you have a chance to talk?" I said, "Hey, my brother, I'm gonna shoot you!" If it was my life against theirs, then I don't care who it is I have to shoot them." He said, "Oh, yeah, yeah, that's right."

All those were really silly questions. That's true. So I was cleared right away. They also asked me, "Would you send your boy to the Army?" Well, he was only 2 years old. All those dumb questions...but that's the way it was.

Then after I was cleared, the questioning was cut off. Then the questioning officer said, "I wona ask you a question. You can say anything you want. Do you think Japan is wrong or America wrong?" I said, "No side is

wrong, or right. War is war. Other side thinks he is right. America thinks she is right. I don't know exactly who is right. But if you sent me to the Army, I have to shoot the other. Because I am over here and other side is over there and they are not going to let me go just because I am a Japanese. It's my life against their life." He was nice about it, you know. Further more, I told him, "Sad part is that they don't have enough airplains. How are they going to fight war if they don't have enough airplains."

The Major said, "By golly, I'll write all those things for you on the bottom. You are cleared. You may go." That's what he told me. It was that simple. But those questions were so crazy. It was really funny and I cann't believe that they would ask such questions. It was very childish questions. But I was clearified any way. After that no one could say anything to me.

When I was fired from the factory, I felt very terrible. You see, I worked for a defense factory in Chicago. It was before we got a permission to come back to California. We went there at the end of 1943. I stayed there for a while. I left my wife and children in the camp. First I went to Colorado. I stayed up there from Feb. to Aug.. Then I came back and then I went out again to Chicago.

I did farming in Colorado. I did sharecrop. In Colorado it hailed...golf ball size hails and it busted us. We lost money there. It was that big. It was just about golf ball size failes. You know we had 36 ares of onions and 25 acres of cantaloupes. We also had corns. That corns belonged to owner, because he needed it to feed cows.

It was about the time when canteloupes were getting to be gree and were as hard as rock. But those fails bust them up into halfs. Those canteloups were hard, so if you pick them up and drop them, they wouldn't crack. But you know when they got ripe, they were really delicious. There, it was 7 to 8 thausand feet elevation. So this must have something to do with it.

I had a partner whose father was a truck farmer all his life in Downy, Los Angeles before the war...

There was a priority on varous crops. There was no priority on canteloups, because they were laxury item. Corn, it was encouraged. So they would plant corn in front and then planted canteloups in the back. People would say they were not cooperating with the government if they see you planting just canteloupes. They made lots of money of canteloupes, you see.

They made money on canteloups, because buyers from Chicago had already come and bought crops for $5 per crait, even before they planted. It was that good. So whatever you plant, they were able to sell. They were that good. But you see you may be damaged by the hails. Yes, that's right they used to sell 90¢ in Chicago, but 50¢ for the farmers.

So Colorado wasn't good for us, so we came back to the camp. Then we went to Chicago. I worked for the International Harvester. I worked on radiators. My job was to put radiators in oven at 3,250°. It was piece work. We put them in an oven for only a few minutes, and then put them in molds and cool them off by fan. Most of the job was done automatically.

During the winter time it was a nice job, but during the summer time it got real hot. In winter, I would take a break and go outside to cool off. If I had put down my soda water for a minute, it would explode. It got frozen. It was that cold. Some times it got below 0°, sometimes 5° or 10°.

We worked there with just one sweat shirt. In summer time we wore no shirts. They gave us lether apron and boots and gloves for safety purpose. It was really hot during the summer. I got rash during the summer because

heat.

Q: What happen from there?

A: Well, I got fired. My brother, well FBI checked all the defense factory workers. They came to... They were scared of sabotarge, so they came and asked questions. You had to answer "Yes" or "No". Well, my brother was not on the black list. In fact he passed examination for the Army. He came out to avoid draft, because he had a wife and children. He came out to my place. He wanted to get on the black list, so that he didn't have to go to the Army.

Well, FBI came when I was there, too. All those FBI's were white men except one who was a Chinese. He was a young and very arrogant. He was pushy and cocky. In any case, they came and asked questions. One of the question was "Do you believe in Shinto or Buddhism? So my brother said, "Shinto? Shinto is the No. 1 religion." You see, he wanted to get on the black list.

They said, "Why?" My brother said, "It's because it is the best." Well, FBI were so surprised and felt so definite about my brother, they decided that I was also a pro-Japan person. I was cleared till then, but they put me back on the list from then on.

You see this is the way the American system works. Let's say you were drafted in Lodi. Then you moved to Arkansas. The notice still comes from Lodi saying that you should report to examination in Sep. or Nov. You can work there till about 2 days before the date of reporting, then you could go out of town. When the notice come to you, you aren't there anymore. I someone can sent it back to Lodi.

It takes about one month for the next notice to be issued. Meantime, they don't know where my brother is, so they have to find his address. So inspite of the fact that he passed physical, he dodged his draft.

Finally FBI's came to see my mother. They asked if she know such and such person. She said,"Yes, I know. He is my son." They asked her if she knew where he lived. So she said,"Yes, he lives in Lodi."

So they came to Lodi. They said that every time the notice was sent, he had changed address. He said, "Yes, but every time I changed address, I had sent in the change of address." By that time Aug. 15 had come had the war ended. So they had to set him go.

Everybody was telling me to get on the black list, so that I wouldn't have to be drafted. But you know, when

I got married, I was put on 4F. But they didn't change my status. I didn't know when they might change my status, so I wanted to get a job so that I would be on deferment. They didn't come after me till the end.

Then I went to Rhode Island, New Orines, Michigan and other places trying to relocated from Arkansas. California was not open yet. It was before I went to Colorado. There were those who left for New Jersey Seabrook Farm. There were many people who went there to work. We were the last one to leave the camp.

You know, human beings are funny. Strange people were the most dengerous people. If they know you and hurt you, then that is the worst kind. When I was in Rhode Island, the center encouraged me to relocate there. They said they needed 10 Japanese families there. So if we went there, we cought creat a second California there.

There was a professor of Agriculture in Chicago. He was a real brain, you know. He had a farm in Delaware and he could produce Japanese vegitables there and take them to New York. It would be a good business. So this man wanted 10 Japanese families to farm there.

Well, if we were to farm there, we wanted to see the place first. So, we went to see it. When we went there the State of Delaware was a small state. There was a place called Rosebowl and there was a road which divided the town. The town fought agaist each other over the issue of whether or not they shoud let Japanese work there. This side of the road was in favor of letting Japanese work, and the other side of the road was not in favor of letting Japanese work.

Of course this professor was the head of favoring Japanese work there. There were all kinds of vacant land there, even though the state was a small state. They were thinking that if they let Japanese farm there, the state of Delaware would become a good agricultural state. That's why they wanted Japanese to farm there.

The other group was oposing the professor, because they thought that they had a good thing going there. It was true. However, the mayor was in favor of us coming there. He thought that it was a good idea. So the opposition group began to lose. Well, they resorted to dirty tacktics. They took out a comic which described Japanese soldgers cutting off children's ear, frying them and eating them.

They began to say, "Those Japs would cut off your sons and daughters' ear and fry them and eat them! What are you going to do if you bring in those terrible people?"

Well, this propaganda worked and they won. It became very dangerous. We were sponsored by a Baptist Church. They put us up on the upstair of the church. We stayed there for a week. Well, things got worse by day. It got so dangerous, that we decided to leave the town next day. We were accompanied by a WRA worker, a whiteman, and a minister.

When we looked down from the upsrair, we could see people shouting, "Hey Jap! Let's kick them out!" The minister was telling them, "Don't say that. They are not such terrible people." Well, they couldn't listen to him. We were talking that it might be very dangerous.

Soon, a policeman came to see us. He said that we should get out of the town very soon. They turned into a very dangerous mob. They had bats and sticks in their hands. The wife of the minister stood in front of the house and said, "Don't worry. They have to get me before they can get you. I'm closer to them than you are to you. As long as I live here they cann't touch you."

The government must have paid some money for us for our food. In any case, the first bus was leaving at 4:00am. It was still dark and cold. It was in winter, you see. The minister who was sent by the government, and the government worker and three others, all together five slipped out of the town.

They said, "We came to a bad place!" We were really disappointed and shagrined. It was very cold and windy. Well, 2 men approached us while we were waiting. The preacher told us even if they hit us on the head once or twice, we were to bare it. If we strick back, then everything would be finished. He was going to talk to them first.

He walked over there and talked to them quite a bit. Well, they listen to the preacher and went home. One of them were big man over 6 ft. Then in about 10 minutes before 4 o'clock the bus came. So we jumped in the bus. We were really glad. From there we went to the place where we took a ferry.

Well, there, people didn't care who we were. When we went to the restaurant, people said, "Come on George! Come on." and we were very welcomed. Well, in this

town Japanese ship used to come in. So the sailors used to spend a lot of money. So they must think that I was a sailor. We were really treated well there.

I said, "No, no more. I'm full." But they brought all kinds of food to us. Later on I found about Japanese sailors. They used to drink a lot, too, and spent a lot of money. It was only a distance from Lodi to Oakland. I was really surprised by the difference between those two peoples.

Any way, people's mob psychology is very dangerous. They'll just come after you saying, "Get them! Get them!" No one can do anything about it.

From there, we went to Tennessee. We had to change train to get there. Three of us were waiting at the station. We ware P-coat (?). Then a hakujin came over and slapped our showlder. He was a big man. He said, "We gonna beat Jap, he!" Well, he thought we were Chinese. We said, "Yeah, Yeah. We gonna get them!" Towards the end everybody seemed to think we were Chinese.

Some of the Chinese also thought that we were Chinese,

too, and started to talk to us in Chinese. When we worked in Chicago, we didn't see sunshine for a long time, so we looked very pail. So we must look really like Chinese. But, you know, Chinese were really gutsy.

You know, those who had guts were Chinese. I'll tell you. There was a huge station in Chicago. People were changing trains there. During the war time people were packed in the train like sardine. If you miss one train, then you would miss whatever you were trying to do that day.

I was going to an arena to see bascketball. There was a Chinese man ahead of me. He told me to come in front, where he was, so that I would be able to catch the train. He was talking to me in Chinese, in loud voice, "Xxxxx Xxxxx!" Well, he had a lot of guts. I don't think Japanese would do such a thing. Well, I couldn't approach him, because we were packed like sardine. Chinese were all over the States, in every corner of the country. They were there in Arkansas, too.

Q: Have you been in St. Louis?

A: Yes, all the time. Wherever you go, like Chicago, you had to pass St. Louis. It was a junction. We had to change our train there. Arkansas was in the south, so

we had to pass there to go to Chicago. The connection was very bad there. The rail road station in St. Loiise was really big. Usually, we arrive at one end of the station and had to walk to the other end. We had to run sometimes to catch the train.

Sometimes, we missed the connection. If you missed it you had to wait for 5 hours. This 5 hours was really long. If you din't pay attention, the train would leave you behind. The connection was veyy bad.

You see, we ware overcoat and run as fast as we could to catch the connection. When it comes to running, you can not catch up with tall whiteman. I saw many servicemen's wives crying, because they had to run with their children, I felt sorry for her, so I carried one of the children and run with them. She was really glad. When we got in, finally, it was so packed that there was no space. They say that Americans would give their seat to ladies, well, that's a lie. Nobody gave her a seat. She was holding a baby. She also had a boy about 6 years old whom I carried at that time.

This boy was holding a bag he carried on his back. I happened to have only one small bag. But no one paid any attention to them. Well, I su-pose in ordinary time

people might do that, but during the war time, no one did things like that. There was a big man sitting there, sleeping and snoring. I told the boy to sit on the sholder of that seat. If he sat on the floor, people would step on him, you see. I felt really sorry for them. Nobody helped her.

I couldn't miss the train either, because I was to meet a man, sone of Ohhashi in Stockton who worked for YMCA. Once I missed a train and had to wait for 5 hours. Some people would sleep on the station, but I couldn't over sleep either.

There was a large Zoo there. We also went to Colombus, Ohaio. You know there is a church called Brethern. This church invited us to come. So the family I stayed with was a elderly mother, and son who was about 50 years old who was not married.

Well, when we arrived there in the WRA car, the snow was about one feet high. The car couldn't come in close to the house, so it was parked on the high way. We walked about a half block to the house. The house was heated by a stove. They were buring wood in it. It was an old house.

The old lady was very glad to see us. She was a German, owned a Bretheren church. People must donated lots of land, but they didn't know how to grow things. They only grew barley or hey. The church had money, so they wanted Japanese to come and work on it.

Well, they wanted us to see the land, but it was overed by snow, so we couldn't see it. When we got to the church, they asked us to teach them how to grow carrots and other vegitables. Three of us went there with a white man from the WRA. They asked me what I used to grow. So I said grapes. I also had tomatos. But all of knew how to grow vegitables. So we talked about planting vegitables in this small group.

They said that their plants died by the end of August. I asked them why. He said he didn't know. I asked him if he had given water. He said, "No. I never watered them." Well, if it rained, then it was okay. But if it didn't, then they had to give water. It rained a lot in spring there. In fact it got flooded sometimes. So they didn't know how to irrigate it.

We asked them where the water was. They didn't have a well. There was a small creek. So we told them that

they could pump it out of the creek. They didn't know how to do things like that. So they had lots of tomatos when it rained a lot, but none when it didn't.

Many of them came to see Japanese, because they had never seen Japanese. They said that they had a rare guest, so they were going to treat us with lots of food that night. They had ham cured by sugar. It was really good. They put it in the oven and baked it. They asked us if we had enough, so we said, "Oh, yes!"

We talked a lot in the house with their relatives. The lady of the house kooked yams and potatos. In the beginning they greeted us formally. She said not to think of the situation as real bad lot. The world was made that way. She and her family came to America from Canada, because they were chased out of their place, because they were Germans. It was in 1915.

She said that we might be opressed somewhere in future also, but we shouldn't lose faith. We would be able to begain a new start. "God is always with you. Don't get upset and don't get mad." This old lady was a real good person. When we parted she cried. She felt really sorry for us. She kissed me for good-by. I never be

kissed like that before. She was crying for us. Well, there were people like that, you know.

We've never seen her before. She was a total stranger, but she was such a nice person. We were really surprised. Her husband was much older than her. He was smoking and taking easy. Her son didn't say a word while we were there. When we said, "Hello!" he would reply saying, "Hello!" The old lady was the only one who was talking.

She cut us a thick piece of ham and was very good. We were hungry, too, you know. But it was sure good. There were people like that, you know, in this country. When it comes to things like that, church people are the one who understand us the most. We were convinced that people who don't have religion are the most dengerous people. Those people who put us up in Rosebowl was also church people.

Those church people were cooking for us. I don't know how much the government was paying for us, but they cooked for us. I think our perdiem was $5 a day or something. We tried to pay her, but she didn't accept. She had small children, two of them, I think.

Those children would come up to us and said, "Hallo!"

In any case those folks were also church people, too. Most of the people were thinking uust for themselves.

We also went to New Orleans. It was an international town. There were people of many nationalities there driniing beer from the morning. They don't care whether you are Japanese or Chinese or anything. Japanese buy cotton from there. Even now many Japanese come through there.

There were lots of French there. I think it started with French. Frence used to own it. There is a place called "Rrench Quarter". There were also brothels, too. There were some in Sacramento, too, for that matter. It's a very famous place for it.

They also have all kinds of restaurants. They have a market where they sold almost everything. A friend of mine taught me to eat soft-shell crab. You crack the shell and eat it, those ordinary ones. But it had soft shell and it was really good.

They must catch them when they are shedding outer shell or something. It is a large crab. They fry it as it is and eat it. They would bring it on a large toast. It

really looked strange, but when I ate it, it tasted real good. You can eat everything, including the soft shell.

People there loved clay-fish. They would chou on it and spit it out and drink beer. They love beer there. They would drink it all night. It was warm there also. It was 2nd and 3rd or January, but we just wore a shirt. We didn't need jacket or anything.

In any case there were all kinds of store to sell food. Most of the stores there were for food and drinks. I was really surprised to see that. I was marveled that there must be enough people to support all those food stores. It was so hot there that I was perspiring from early in the morning.

Mean while California became open. So many people who owned land came back first, because they had some place to go home to. Those of them who didn't have land, came home, too. We came back to Bacon Island to farm. Ten of us went into partnership and grew celory. It was a share cropping. It was May 1st, 1945.

At that time there were prisoners of war (German) in

Bacon Island. I felt very sorry for them. This island was owned by a Jew, by the name of Zachaman. So they were really cruel against German prisoners of war. They wanted to get cigarret from us so they used to ask "Cig! Cig!" When I gave it to them they were really happy. MP's didn't complain, but the owner came by and yelled at us, "Get the hell out of here!"

Jew were really harsh against German. They were working on one line and when they finish it they could come in the house. Even though they had very good physique, some had bad back or something and they couldn't carry their load. The rest of the people were finished and waiting for them in the bus, but those who hadn't finished had to complete it. But no one came to help them, even though it was getting dark.

Once I saw a man who was having quite a pain and standing there, then the owner came back and kicked his behind. MP's didn't say anything about that. All those soldgers were caught in Africa. They belong to tank units. They were captured and brought to Bacon Island. They were really young. It looked like they were 18 and 19 years old. They had real good physique, though.

I used to look at them with pity. The owner was really

cruel. I really thought that those white people were really wild and savage. They didn't commit crimes, they were soldgers and they didn't start the war, you know. This man, Zachaman, knew that German people were really cruel against Jews in Germany, so he was cruel against them.

Q: Did you have any trouble when you came back here?

A: No. Well, some people did receive some kind of things. But I didn't go around too much, so... But I felt that we were in a weak position.

Our celory was packed in the next Island, Hall. We knew that when we sent our celory, we could estimate cirtain amount of yield, crates. However, the company used to steal them from us. So when we were expecting 100 crates, we were getting only 90 to 92. Our friend said, "Even if I am mistaken, it wouldn't be that much. I have been doing this for 70 years."

We talked it over, because it was very serious accusation. But we knew that they were stealing our celory. When we became aware of it, we went to see the operation. But they wouldn't let us come in the packing house. They said, "Philipinos hate you, so don't come in." I said,

"We din't fight against Philipinos." But, you see, the boss was pushing Philipinos against us. When we entered the packing house, one of the Philipinos threw a knife at our feet. It was just a scare tactics. I said, "Watch out now." Then the Philipino didn't say anything.

Then the boss came out and said, "That's why I didn't want you to come in." It will be a trouble." Three of us had to come home. But when we came home we told our land lord, Mr. Lacy, that they were stealing our celory, so he should check up on them. He asked us if it was true, so we said it was.

Then, Mr. Lacy, well, Mr. Lacy was underdog, because he was the only one who didn't make money during the war time. So he had to borrow money from the packing house to plant celory. That's why he was underdog. We didn't know that, so I said that he should check up on it. Otherwise I didn't want to keep cutting celory.

He said, "Okay." He wore dirty clothes and went to watch it. We marked every so much celory with red mark on our crates, so that we can keep count of it. Well, we were able to make 102 each time. So they were stealing 10 out of 100 crates. Then Mr. Lacy got real mad. He

went out to the packing house and went after the boss. The boss run away, but it wouldn't do any good. He called the owner of the packing house who lived in Oakland. He came out to see him. Mr. Lacy had the evidence against the boss.

By then the season was half over. We lost quite a bit of it. Mr. Lacy asked us to keep working for him, so we did. So you see, things like that we suffered just because we were Japanese. Those Philipinos, they wouldn't really cut you up. They were used to scare us, that's all.

Q: Did you have your own house?

A: No, we didn't have it. We lived in a camp. It was situated in the 500 acre field. It was a large three story house. Then families lived in it. There was no other incident like that, though. We didn't go out too much, so we didn't meet any other discrimination or harrasment.

But you know, we are human beings, so there were times when we were afraid. One night people were making all kinds of noise by the river. So after we took bath, three of us talked about this. We thought that somebody

was trying to vandalize our farm. So three of us armed ourselves and tried to find out what was going on. Well, they were fishing. It was illigal to fish during the night, but those three had net out there and trying to catch the fish which were caught. But it was so dark that they couldn't see, so they were just groping in the dark and making all kinds of noise.

They were all whites, though. It was about 11 pm, so we went out there and chase them out before they mess up our place. We were still young and were very strong, then. It was very scarely. You see, we were very causcious, so these things bothered us. Other than that we didn't have anything.

Q: Did you own your own land?

A: Well, we did. But even though we put down down payment, we couldn't keep up with the payments. So we returned it to a bank. I wanted the bank to take it back immeadiately, but it refused to take it back. I bought it in November. I finished pruning and got it ready. But I had to turn it back in May. We had to take care of the land during that time. If bank didn't take it back soon, we just had to loose money for all the labor and work we put in.

The government must have intervene, so at the very last the bank said it would take it back. We just got the sctual money we put in. We did claim for the repayment of our damages. It was 120,000 dallors, but they only returned $6,000. Our owners said, "If you leave me, what am I going to do?" He didn't know how to manage his farm, you see.

Some of those farmers had 100 acres, 1,000 acres of grapes, but they couldn't keep it up because they lost workers. But those who had grapes makde lots of money. Raisin were bought up by the Army. So everybody was making raisin. So grapes' value went up.

Q: You were in pertnership with 10 other people, right?

A: Right. We were in partnership for one year. Then 4 of us went back to their own farm, so six of them stayed on. I was the youngest and asked me to stay with them, but I left. If I had stayed with them one more year, then I could have made a lot of money.

I cam back to Lodi and farmed. I did all kinds of things. I made some money one year and lost it next year, and so on. I lost more years than I made money. I was too hasty to make dicisions. We just counldn't go into grapes, because it costs too much. So we went into

fruits. But the value of fruit went down gradually because Central California was producing them earlier. So, Penrin and Lodi fruit farmers declined. I would say that we lost money for about 5 years on this.

We did real good before we left for the camp, but we lost lots of money after we came back. We had small children, so we were very poor. Once we planted 16 acres of spinich, but that year it rained a lot and lost all the plants. We had 40 acres of beans. Our neighbor was a man from Oklahoma. He also had beans, 80 acres of it.

When he irrigated the beans, he had too much water, so he discarded it into a ditch. It was okay, but he had so much water that it flooded my beans, 40 acres of it. I had 80 acres of beans but I lost a half of it at that time.

A fruit company financed me, so the company told me to suit the man. But you know I was the first Japanese person who farmed in that district. So I ended up not suiting the man.

I didn't lose money at that time, but I didn't make any money at all. It was a good crop then. I could

have made a lot of money if we didn't have that accident. You see, it was the first crop in that land, so it produced very well. Beans were easily dammaged by water. When beans were ripe, it would burst out of the pods and if it were hot, it would get cooked, too.

Tomato, too, get mushy when it get too ripe. They got shaken in the truck and got mushy. We used to have tomato with thin skin, so it got like that all the time. On time our truck came back because tomato got too mushy. They truck driver was mad and asked me where he could dumpt it.

I had to hire black workers and spread them along the highway. Well, there were 6 big walnut trees along the highway and they all died. The owner of the trees aold me that he was going to suit me. They were big trees. It took three persons to surround each tree.

That white man from Oklahoma said that he was going to suit me. So I said, "I'll suit you, too." Then he didn't say anything anymore. Tomato had acid, you see, and I had 6 truck loads of tomato came back to me. If I had to pay the fright and everything, I could have lost lots of money. But all the transportation was paid by the buyers, so I was saved. This, too, was caused by too much water.

I bought this place in 1954. There were times when one walks into lucky situation. I went to see grape ranch in Lodi. The owner wanted to knock off all the grapes on the farm. He said," I have never seen such rotton grapes in my whole life. There is no such bad crop than grapes." I said, "What happen?° He siad, "I have been working on the grapes for the past three years, but I never made any money on it." He had no pickers. He called the company to send pickers, but they never came.

They would come and drop boxes on his ranch, but the pickers never arrived. So he was really angry. He was going to knock them down and plant alphalpha. I said, "Oh, yeah? Are you interested in selling it?" He said, "Oh, yeah, yeah! U;kk sekk ut abttune," Well, we discussed the price and bought it. Since then the front piece here got on sail, so I bought it, too.

Soon after the price of grapes began to improve, you see, those big packing houses wouldn't deal with farmers who got only 20 to 30 acres. They deal with the big farmers first. If they had enough time, then they would send workers to your vineyard. So when the pickers didn't come, they just had to send them to winary. It wouldn't make money if you had to send your grapes to wineries.

This whiteman was very happy to sell it to me.

Q: The packing house would send pickers to your ranch, is that right? Can't you hire pickers yourself?

A: Yes, you can. However, those white people didn't do that. They didn't have experience of hireing farm workers, so they didn't do that. Those people who had experience of grapes before, they could do it by themselves, but this man didn't have any experience at all. So he depended on the company. But if the acrage was small, or the crop was not very good, then, they would say that they would send workers, but they wouldn't carry it out.

Meanwhile, it rained or something happened and you would lost out. The company would go to the big place first, always. The company people were very smart, too, you know. Some of the farmers really didn't know how to grow grapes. They would think as long as they give water, things would grow.

Q: When you came back, you had to start from the scratch.

A: Oh, yes. We really had to begin from the bottom. The reason why we came back here in Lodi was that, the man I used to work for died, and his wife became widow. She

asked me to come back and work for her. That's the main reason why I came back to Lodi. She came after me in Bacon Island. Her son was in the Army and he ahd no one to depend on. Our tools were kept there, also. She was a very nice person, too.

The farming in Bacon Island was different from the one I was used to. It was larger scale than here, though. But they wouldn't take some steps to take care of the crops. They used to make me mad. I used to tell my partners about it. But they too were used to doing that, so they didn't understand me.

When I came back to Lodi, I went to see the company people I used to work for. I didn't have a car, so I went to see them by bus. Then Mr. Sanganarie asked me where I was, so I said that I was growing celory. He said, "Oh, you started a bad crop!" I was really disappointed.

I asked him why. He said, "Do you know how many Japanese people are growing celory? And do you know how many people are making money? If you know any one who is making money on it, I want to know. I know one for sure, Mr. Inouye. He got in a car accident, and he is getting

insurance money. He is the only one who is making money in that business."

I was really disappointed. It was true, you know. This man was using MaCall's truck and got in an accident. He won a law suit, so he was receiving the insurance money. So I came home and talked to my brother about it.

I was so disappointed that it was very hard for me to work for a while. But we did finish that year. It was true, we didn't make any money.

When we started celory, Mr. Hart, a very good man, who was a field man of the compnay, used to take bicycle around the field and makr celories. He was calculating the celory or something to do with seedlings which they distributed.

He said that the seedlings came from Salinas. When it arrived the seedlings were all rotton and no good. Our man who was in charge of the plants looked at it and said, "If we were to pay for this junk, even if we make some money on it, it wouldn't be enough."

It's true, so the field man came to see us and said that

the company would take care of that. So we thought, "Oh, that's good. Let's throw all of them out." Well, later on the company told us to pay for the plants. It was a lie to begin with. So we had to pay for it. They said that the field man misunderstood the company position on it. Mr. Heart said that he heard the company say it would take care of it. Well, the compnay insisted that he was wrong. So we had to pay for it at the end. They said that the company had to pay for labor and shiping fee.

It was about the time when everything was finished when Mr. Heart came to see us. It was the time when we were saying, "We will finish everything next week." Mr. Heart came to see us and said, "The price of crates went up, so we would like to charge you $6,000 more." Well, it was okay. But when I asked them, "When did it go up?" they said, "Today."

Well, when it came to finalize our finances, they charged the whole $6,000 to us. So we all went to the company and it was a big commotion. It was really regretable. Mr. Lacy leased it from the compnay and he subleased it to us. He didn't have any money to begin with, so he didn't have any power to insist on anything.

So I felt that I shouldn't stay there too long. There was no future in it. So that's why I didn't stay with them. But next year they did make money, though, on carrots and potatos. Well, even that, those carrots were the ones which I planted.

We were using # 7 lot that year. Our elder partners said, "We will make money this year so please stay with us." Everytime I went to tell them that I was quitting, I was persuaded to stay, so I came home not convincing that I was leaving. My mother asked me if I had told them. She was going to go without us, if I didn't say it.

Well, the place was very humid. Even in the night your skin was sticky. She said that if she had to stay there a few more days she would die. So finally in the late February I told them that I was leaving. I was following my partners who were seeding. I told them about it after we finished seeding.

That year carrots did very well. They grew big, too. The compnay was dicing them and canning them, so they didn't care how big they got. They liked it bigger because of it. In any case, they made lots of money that year. They

also did well on potetos, too. We burned the field to do it, so it was an ideal ground. We did that in the fall.

It was the first experience for me to burn the field. It was a very dangerous job. I've heard about it, but I never experienced it before. At right time, you have to adjust the fire by watering it. We had to make a ditch every 20 feet. I heard about it, but I'd never done it before.

I used to urge my partners to get a contract on paper. The reason why I said that was because I knew something about the land lord. One day we were trying to work on a feild with a trucktor. We were trying to put extra plates on the catapila tooth, so that we could get in the field. We needed to use 14 to 16 in bolts. We needed so many of them.

They had asked me to go to Stockton to buy them wholesale. The sailsman asked me if I had come from Mr. Lacy's farm. So I said, "Yes." He said, "Today I'll give them to you, but this is the last time I'll give them to you." Why? I asked him. He said, "He never pays bills. Tell your boss that I can't give you anything anymore without down payment."

I was so surprised, so I went home and told one of my partners. He said, "Godden, that Lacy is deen in debt." Well, when we asked around, he was in deep debt. During the war time, he was the only one around there who lost out. Others made a lot of money. The reason was that he hired bad Mexicans, and they took too long to pick grapes, so that they got behind and burned a very expensive pomp, several thausand dollers worth.

They ahd to give oil regualrly. But even if one missed it a few times, it wouldn't burn. But the fact is that they must be sleeping while they should have been working. So they burned it. He put the pomp by himself and selling water to others. He was doing business, you see. But that pomp got burned, so they must not have given oil for many days.

It was such a huge machine. There was a large ditch in the middle of the Island and everyone drained the water into ti. He was pomping the water out from there. It had a huge pipe, bigger than three men couldn't surround it with their arms spread out. If they couldn't get the water out, then the whole area would be under the water, 5,000 acres of it.

Each camp was divided into 500 acres, and there were 10 camps in Bacon Island. He was a good man, though, Mr. Lacy, but he was in debt.

Q: When did your mother pass away?

A: In 1967, it has been 10 years. She died after we moved here. (Mrs.) After the war, we had lots of workers. They all came back from Relocation Camps. All those people were single old men, and there weren't too many married people. It was very cold in the morning after October. In the morning old people woke up early. Some of them used to come in kitchen before 5:00am and ask for coffee. I used to say, "Please wait for a while."

(Mrs.) I had to cook for 150 people, you know. And I didn't have too much facility. I had a large stove outside and I had a small gasline stove inside. So I had to make coffee there, and make miso soup out there. They had to eat in three shifts, so I had to clean the tables, too, in between. We had to wash dishes a few times for one meal.

(Mrs.) It was a small place, so I had a hard time getting throgh between the chairs to serve. If one was a little fat, he/she couldn't get through. So I had to

do the serving, too. I was very thin then. We used to have a lot of dishes, but they were stolen from our labor camp during the war. Our kitchen utencils, too, were stolen.

It was very ahrd for us to serve meals to that many people when we didn't have good enough facility to begin with. Then we didn't have enough dishes and utencils and tools. It was also very difficult to go shoping for food. There was no big stores in Lodi, so we had to go to Stockton for shoping.

We had to go shoping every other day. Food for 150 people is a lot of food. B eside, there was no place for us to keep them. The thing which was difficult was that old men used to come in the kitchen early in the morning askeing for coffee, because it was very cold.

That year there were lots of rain. It was also very cold, too. When we came back to California, we saw lots of young cherries on the tree. It was a really beautiful sight.

We came home through desert. There was nothing on it, so when we came back into California, we saw lots of green things, so it was very beautiful. I felt very

emotional about it. We had to take very old train and we were being passed by many other trains.

It took 5 days and 5 nights from Arkansas. We had to eat sandwiches or hamburgers from morning to evening. I was pregnant then and taking too small children. When we arrived at Sacramento, some of our friends were there to meet us. Then we went to Chinese restaurant. It tasted so good, I still remmeber that. It was Hon Kin Lum. It used to be located right in front of the depot.

When we came back to Utah, we were able to get off from the train. We wanted to go to a Chinese restaurant. It was only 10am. So even if it was open, chow main wasn't ready for sale. So the Chow main I ate at Sacrament was really good.

I Denver, Mr. Kanegae brought us tea and sushi for us. When we came back to Roseville, we saw green trees. I was very glad to see it. It had lots of red barries on it. But when wer arrived at Bacon Island, we were able to eat cherries.

(Mr.) When I bought 2 boxes of cherries for my family, well, everybody ate it like it was the last time in their life time. It looked like a war going on. You see, it

was the house hold of 10 families, so... It was the left over crop, but even then they really fought for it as if their life depended on it.

Some times I brought home plums, too. It was the people of ten families, so our family had 7, T's had 5, I's had 6, S was single, H's was 4, other H's had 3, T's had 5, so we had more than 50 people, see. K's had 3, T's had 3, and some had new babies, too.

It was a large house hold. It was 31 years ago, thought. We grew up together in camp (Farm Camp) so we got along very well. There was no trouble. We knew how to live together. i don't think Sansei can do it, though. There would be a lot of troubles. Most of Sansei were born during the war time. However, they don't remember anything from the camp.

Q: I want to go back to the time when you were very young. There must have been many single men in Lodi.

A: Oh, yes, most of those laborers were single people. In any case, there were over 2,000 people used to come into Lodi from outside during grapes season. There were lots of Japanese who employed over 200 workers. Before the war 80% of farmers in Lodi were Japanese.

There were no Philipino farmers at that time. They did come in later on, though. There were no white men who did field packing at that time. Most of those people were Japanese people. (Mrs.) When we went to Lodi town, all those side walks were packed with Japanese people.

(Mr.) Lodi was a small town, one street town, and the season was Aug., Sep. and Oct.. During these three months they made enough money to last the rest of the year. After that it looked like a ghost town. You couldn't even find a kitten on the street. There was no use for those people for the rest of the months. There was no job for them to live on.

The only job left was to irrigate, but that can be done by family members. Those people used to circulate all over the place. They used to say "Shanhai". There were some who came from Alasca, or Marysville, Loomis, and others. They were circulating after those crops.

Q: Where did people go from Lodi?

A: Well, they all scattered. Some people went to Loomis, some to Central Cal. for prunning. They didn't make too much money on cherries and aplicots. Peach was okay. Marrysville peach used to be controled by Japanese. I would say 90% of it. Right now it no longer done by

Japanese, though. They were also strong in San Jose, too.

Q: There must have been lots of gambling houses here.

A: Oh, yes. It was wife open. There was Tokyo Club in Lodi. It was a real thing. They didn't get any permit from the city so it was really wild. There were Chinese gambling joints, too. There were three or four of them in Lodi. There were lots of Japanese there. Well, most of the people who gambled there were Japanese.

In Stockton there were Chinese and Philipino, but in Lodi most of those people were Japanese. They would work so hard and earn money, and then they would drop all of their earnings in gambling joints. There were also bars, too. It was called Ryohriya where they played shamisen and entertained people. When those workers came to Lodi, they felt like comeing to a festival. So they would drink sake and stayed at Ryoriya for several days.

If they win at the gambling, then most of the time they would stay at Ryohriya for several days, drinking and getting over the hangover. If they lost, then they had to come home, and work. Sometimes, those folks who lost had to come home on foot.

(Mrs. Ouye, Mrs. Furuoka's mother) When I was young, I used to take lessens on sewing. My husband was in the country and was prunning. He wanted an assistant to help him, so he told me to look for one when those men came to our bording house. So I was waiting for this oppotunity. Then a man by the name of Yamagishi came to the bording house, so I asked him about it. He was a very honest and good man.

Well, there was a big boss b y the name of Utsunomiya. This man used to work for him every year. He said, "I was going back to Mr. Utsunomiya, so I had asked my friend to take my blancket over there. However, if I could stay with you, I would rather do that, so I will work for your husband."

So I asked him to work for my husband. Then he said, "Would you please loan me about $20.00?" Well, if he could work for my husband, the money could be paid back from his earning. So I loarn it to him. Then, he left the house immeadiately. I thought,"Oh, I made a mistake!" He was going to gamble.

I felt that I did wrong thing, but it was too late. He lost everything and came home. He asked me to loarn him again for $30.00. He was asking the person whom he met

for the first time. I was just a woman who was managing the house my herself.

I felt that if he was going to gamble it wouldn't do any good to loan him any money. So I said, "You see, I am alone here managing this boarding house by myself and my husband is in country working. So I really don't have a big money with me. My husband will come to get you, so you must borrow it from him."

I don't know what he did after that. However, later on he came to see me. He said, "I must appologize to you for telling such a lie. I did go to gamble yesterday and lost $50.00. I wanted to get it back, that's why I told you that I could stay and work for your husband and borrowed the money from you. This was a lie." Well, you see, he was committed to go to Utsunomiyas as soon as he could.

He really appologized. So I said, "Oh, we know Mr. Utsunomiya well, and I don't want to make you to stay here. You could return the money after you get your earning." A few days later he earned some money and send that $20.00 back to me. When a man lose at gambling, even the person is such a nice and honest person, they become such a lier.

Q: $50.00 of that time was a big money, wasn't it?

A: Yes, of course. At that time those workers used to borrow money in advance, so that they could gamble or drink sake. At that time there were so many jobs that big bosses really needed workers. There were those who had money would get it in advance and put it in bank.

Those big bosses would go to boarding houses and sit there and wait for those laborers to arrive. Those boarding house owners would favor bosses who pay them more. People like me who couldn't pay had to wait till very last to get workers.

Those people would treat sake or beer to those potential workers and play cards with them. People like me who didn't know how to do those things were very disadvantaged. Those men would go there from the morning to the boarding houses and were very busy in P.R. work.

Those people would spend lots of money on them. Sometimes they might even say, "I heard that Furuokas don't need any more workers." You know there were some who wanted to come back to work for me. But they were told lies, and went to other places. Then it becomes grapes time and they would come around as pickers. So I said,

"Oh, you were in the area." Then he said, "Yes, but Mr. T. told me that your place was full."

So you see, it wouldn't go very well if we didn't spend a lot of money gathering up workers. Those boarding house owners were also very sharp. It made a lot of difference whether or not you spent lots of money on them or not. People like me who dodn't know too much about drinking were really disadvantaged.

So I had to ask my friends and had to come to Sacramento to look for workers. I even went to Marysville where several hundreds of people were working. If they come to work for you, then they would work for you again. That is the nice thing about Japanese people.

But workers were really needed at that time. We were called "Boss, Boss," but actually workers had upper hand. They would say, "I wouldn't work for you." That was a big threat. Some of the workers would say, "I don't want to come to work for you any more." So I said, "How come?" He said, "I don't want to see so-and-so's face."

After all those labor camp disappeared, the town declined very much. Gathering up those workers were a big job.

Sometimes we got those who lasted only three days. It was a real headach. He would come to me and say, "I want my pay." I said, "What happen?" He said, "Well, I want to go now." It was a big disappointment.

Q: I would imagine that lots of poeople lost big money in gambling.

A: Well, they lost evey peny they earned. They lost them all in drinking and gambling.

Q: I suppose those single people didn't save any money at all.

A: No, not at all. I would be surprised if you find one in ten who saved his money. Those were the people who could not go back to Japan and couldn't get married. That's why they had no one to leave their money.

But I also know there were those who had thier wives in Japan, too, you know. They were married and they were working hard to save money and go back to Japan. Meanwhile, they learned to gamble. And this gambling got big and lost everything. I heard many men say, "I have a wife in Japan and want to go back as soon as I can, but..." Those were already old men, too.

(Mrs. Ouye) When I came here there was a man by the name of Yoshida who worked for my husband. He came from

a big family who owned konnyaku co. in Hiroshima. He worked hard, but he would spend all he earned on drinking and gambling. He was the one whom you would say that there was no hop.

He had wife and two daughters in Japan. His parents died and his wife was continuing the konnyaku business by herself and raised their daughters. One day he received a telegram from Japan. It said that his wife was in critical condition so he sould come home immeadiately.

But you know he owned only one cloth and no money. His suitcase was empty and met fire twice. One day I was staying home by myself at home. I heard a funny noise. So I went out of my room and then saw that our camp was on fire. So I run over there. I saw this man holding his suitcase and running around like a madman.

I yelled at him and told him to come out. My husband was attending Nihonjin Kai (Japanese Association) meeting. I took my children and my in-law out and I had to scold this man many times to get him out of the fire.

This man just took futon he was sleeping in and didn't even carry any of his suitcase or other possesssions.

Well, it was at that time that the telegram from Japan arrived. But even if he wanted to go home, he didn't have any money. So the vi/lage people borrowed money and brought a ticket back to Japan and send him home.

When he went back, he discovered that the telegram was a lie. They just wanted him to come home. He didn't even send any money back to Japan for many many years, and didn't even send any letters. So some one had asked the family to send such telegram and brought him back to Japan.

When he went back, his wife was doing thing well. One of his daughter was married, and they were ready for him to return. They even had a new kimono made for him. They had asked him to stay at home for a while. His wife had prepared omiyage (souvenir gifts) from America and distributed to their relatives.

Then after that he went around his relatives to greet them with his wife. When we went back, we went to visit him. He had become very healthy and helping the family business. He was lucky that his wife had called him back like that. He used to spend all of his earning for drinking and gambling.

This man didn't even have a change. He had just one outfit which he wore for work. He also wore that for funeral and everything else. He burned it also in the fire. He was really sorrowful figure. However, after he went back to Japan, he seemed to be doing okay. However, he might died in the Atomic Bomb during the Worl War II. I don't know.

I could tell you all kinds of sad stories like that. There were many of them. People who left parents or wives in Japan had very lonely life. There was a man by the name of Ushio who left his mother in Japan. He got old and couldn't hear very well.

He used to have dreams at night, about his mother. Mother always said to come home. However, he didn't have anything to go home with. He lost all his money in Bakkape (lottary), and shico at gambling joints. He used to practice when he came home losing all his money. He was a very sorry figure, too. Finally he went mad. Those people used to come over and ask us to lend them beans.

This man became memtally ill and start talking to himself. He just couldn't shake off his mother's begging to come home. He really wanted to see her, but he couldn't. He

wanted to go home and so he wanted to make a quick money at the gambling joint. That's why he lost more money.

There were many people like that. The one I remember was that those people were trying to make a quick money. If you win, then it's the fastest way to make money. But most of the people had lost.

Our workers like Sakurai and fukumitsu were all old people, but... They realized what they were doing when they became around 50 years old. This man, Sakurai got married in Japan and didn't want to come to America. But they told him that he could make money here very quickly. That's why he came to America.

His wife was coming, too. But the day before she left Japan, her mother began to feel sorry for herself and stopped her from coming. Her mother felt that she couldn't keep the household going by herself. So even though she was pregnant, he left her in Japan and came to America by himself.

So he wanted to go back to Japan as soon as possible, but he couldn't. So that's why he started gambling. But he bot deeper and deeper into it. Later on he began to

tell lies about it. So he lost all his friends. When his former friend saw him on the street, he would turn a corner and went away.

So he finally woke up and realized what he was doing. So after that, he became straight, really straight. He was like a stone. But he made a lot of money. He didn't even bothered to take day-offs. He went to hill countries to irrigate.

He saved up money and he began to receive social security and went back to Japan. He stayed here till then. By the time he went back, the child he hadn't seen had become a teacher. He lost all his life doing things like that. It was really pityful. But there are many cases like that, though.

There was a man by the name of Nakata. His mother was in Japan, but she became crazy. So, they had to institutionalize her. Even then his father who was here working didn't go home. He was in my class in Lodi. They just lost all their life doing such foolish things.

They came here to make money, but they just couldn't do it. If they were by themselves, then it would be okay, because it is their own life. But their wifes and child-

ren suffered because of those people. It's really bad. In the case of Mr. Yoshida, his wife was a very smart person, so she called him back. That's why he was saved.

(Mrs. Ouye) After he went back, a son was born. When we went to see him, he said, "You should have come in the afternoon. Then I can have finished my work early and taken you to a show." We just dropped in in the morning.

There was a man by the name of Mr. Machida, who smuggled in, so when the war began, he went back to Japan right away. He came back after the war, though.

(Mrs. Ouye) We don't have many more of those gambling joints here in Lodi, but now people go to Reno. I think more number of Issei than Nisei go there.

Q: I think I stayed here too long. I really appreciatd it very much. I hope I didn't interupt your schedule.